

Draft

A Declaration of Principle by Farm Workers

1. We want no more and no less than what other Americans ~~now~~ now enjoy-- such as adequate income, decent working conditions, educational opportunities for our children; the legal rights which all other workers have; and respect, justice, and freedom.
2. We are organizing a farm workers' union because we believe that we can gain these objectives only through a union.
3. When we say we are "organizing" a union, we mean we are building a group of men and women who know and trust each other and work together on common problems.
4. A farm worker is anyone who works for wages on a farm or ranch, whatever his job may be. We do not wish to stretch the jurisdiction of the farm workers' union beyond the farm, onto the highways, or into the cities.
5. Our union will insist on equal rights at all times for all agricultural workers, regardless of race, culture, language, religion, national origin, present nationality, sex, age, or other irrelevant considerations.
- ~~ix~~ 6. Our union will show no favoritism toward workers in any certain class of crops.
7. We are building a union which shall be as truly democratic as we can make it. Democracy in the union will mean, among other things, that all officers will be answerable to the rank-and-file workers; that members will be encouraged to express their opinions and ideas freely, especially those members who disagree with the officers; and that *important* decisions will be made by the majority in membership meetings and honest elections.
8. We want freedom (in the sense we have just described) and justice (in the sense of a fair share of the world's goods). We believe you cannot have complete freedom without justice, nor have complete justice without freedom.
9. Our union will be as honest and open as we can make it. *Must deserve and earn confidence of its members.*
10. We believe our methods are as important as our goals. If a union is built through terror, violence, lying, and cheating, its goals-- however good they might once have been-- will be poisoned from the start. We will use methods to build our union which fit our

ideals of democracy, justice, dignity, and honor.

11. Agricultural workers deserve a union of their own, and they are capable of guiding and supporting ^{it.} ~~their own union~~ ^{organization}. To build our union, we need the help of existing unions in other industries, but we farm ~~xxx~~ workers do not want to lose ourselves in someone else's ~~union~~ ^{organization}.

12. We want, need, and will gratefully accept assistance from any group or person-- if ~~the~~ such help is given because the person agrees with our principles,

13. We do not want and do not need support from individuals and organizations whose principles or practices conflict with ours. We shall resist the efforts of such groups as the following to infiltrate the farm labor movement:

- a. Those whose leaders are dishonest in financial deals.
- b. Those who consider it permissible for some people's freedom to be abolished, in some places, at some times, under some circumstances.
- c. Those which permit the use of violence or which practice racial and other discrimination.
- d. Those whose organizing methods are anti-democratic: involving sweetheart contracts, and the like.
- e. Those who would divide farm workers along lines of crop, area, skill, etc.

We set these limits knowing full well how much potential support we may lose. We do so because of our conviction that a union built slowly, and painfully, but the right way, is far better than a union built quickly, expediently, and in the wrong way.